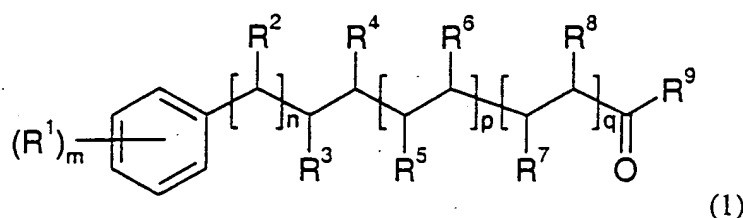


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

|1 (previously presented). A method of treating a skin condition of a subject wherein the skin condition is selected from the group of conditions (a) vitiligo and (b) melanomas, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (1)



wherein $n = 0$ or 1 ;

p is 0 or 1 ;

q is 0 or 1

when $n = p = q = 0$, R^3 and R^4 represent hydrogen or together represent a carbon to carbon double bond;

when $n = 0$ and one of p and $q = 1$, R^3 and R^4 together and one of R^5 and R^6 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent carbon to carbon double bonds, R^3 and R^4 together represent a carbon to carbon double bond and R^5 and R^6 or R^7 and R^8 represent hydrogen atoms, R^3 and R^4 represent hydrogen and one of R^5 and R^6 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent carbon to carbon double bonds or R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 all represent hydrogen atoms; when $n = 0$ and $p = q = 1$, R^3 and R^4 together and one of R^5 and R^6 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent carbon to carbon double bonds

the other of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 representing hydrogen, R^3 and R^4 together represent a carbon to carbon double bond and R^5 and R^6 or R^7 and R^8 represent hydrogen atoms, R^3 and R^4 represent hydrogen and one of R^5 and R^6 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent carbon to carbon double bonds the other of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 representing hydrogen, R^3 and R^4 together, R^5 and R^6 together and R^7 and R^8 together represent carbon to carbon double bonds or R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 all represent hydrogen atoms;

or optionally when n is 1 R^2 and R^3 together represent a carbon to carbon double bond and one or more of R^4 and R^5 together, R^5 and R^6 together, R^6 and R^7 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent a carbon to carbon double bond the other of R^4 to R^8 representing hydrogen;

$m = 1, 2$ or 3 ;

when $m = 1$, R^1 represents an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a hydroxy group;

when $m = 2$, each R^1 independently represents an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or the two R^1 's together represent a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy group;

when $m = 3$, two R^1 's together represent a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy group and the other R^1 represents an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a hydroxy group; R^9 represents a pyrrolidino, piperidino, 4-methylpiperidino or morpholino group, a N-monoalkylamino group of 4 to 6 carbon atoms, a N-monocycloalkylamino group of 4 to 7 carbon atoms, a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy-substituted benzylamino or 2-phenethylamino group or R^9 represents an alkoxy group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; in any of its E, Z geometrically isomeric forms.

2 (currently amended). The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin condition is a melanoma and the subject is a patient ~~a melanoma~~.

3 (previously presented). The method of Claim 1, wherein the subject is a patient and the skin condition is treatable by stimulation of melanocyte proliferation.

4 (previously presented). The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin condition is vitiligo.

5 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound is administered topically to the area of the skin to be treated.

6 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (1) is one in which:

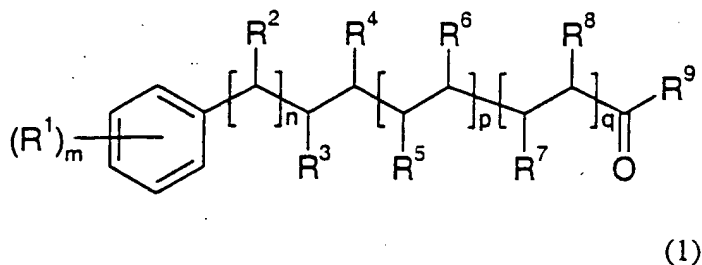
$n = 0$, one of p and $q = 1$, R^3 and R^4 together and one of R^5 and R^6 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent the second bond of a carbon to carbon double bond the other of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 representing hydrogen, $m=2$, the R^1 groups together represent 3',4'-methylenedioxy and R^9 represents a pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, cyclohexylamino or isobutylamino group.

7 (original). The method of Claim 6, wherein the compound is of the E, E geometric configuration.

8 (previously presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is one in which n is 0, one of p and q is 1, R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 represent hydrogen and R^9 is cyclohexylamino.

9 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (1) is piperine, being the E, E-isomer of the compound of formula (1) in which $n = 0$, one of p or $q = 1$, R^3 and R^4 together and one of R^5 and R^6 together or R^7 and R^8 together represent the second bond of a carbon to carbon double bond, the other of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 representing hydrogen, $m = 2$, the R^1 groups together represent 3', 4'-methylenedioxy and R^9 represents piperidino, and the geometric configuration is E, E.

10 (currently amended). A method of treating a skin condition of a subject wherein the skin condition is selected from the group of conditions (a) vitiligo and (b) melanomas, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (1)



in which

(a) n is 0, p and q are each 0 or 1, m is 2, the R¹'s together represent a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy group, R² and R³, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a carbon to carbon double bond and, when p and q are each 0 or 1, R⁵ and R⁶ and R⁷ and R⁸ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a carbon to carbon double bond and R⁹ is piperidino, or

(b) n is 0, one of p or q is 1 and (i) m is 3, the R¹'s being 3', 4'-methylenedioxy and 6'-methoxy or (ii) m is 2, the R¹'s being 3'-hydroxy-4'-methoxy; or (iii) m is 1 and the R¹ is 4'-hydroxy; and R³ to R⁹ are as defined in case (a) above, or

(c) n is 0, one of p and q is 1, R⁹ is piperidino, ~~pyrrolidino~~ pyrrolidino, isobutylamino or methoxy and all other symbols are as defined in case (a) above, or

(d) n is 0, one of p and q is 1, R⁴ and R⁵ represent hydrogen atoms and either R² and R³ also do or R² and R³ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a carbon to carbon double bond; and m, R¹ and R⁹ are as defined in case (a) above;

(e) n is 0, p = q = 1 and R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ represent hydrogen;

(f) n is 0, one of p and q is 1, R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ represent hydrogen and R⁹ is cyclohexylamino; and

in all of which cases (a) to (f) the molecule is in the E,E or all E geometric configuration or in case (a) when n is 1 may be in the Z,Z, Z,E or E,Z geometric configuration.

11 (currently amended). The method of Claim 10, wherein the skin condition is a melanoma and the subject is a patient ~~a melanoma~~.

12 (previously presented). The method of Claim 10, wherein the subject is a patient and the skin condition is treatable by stimulation of melanocyte proliferation.

13 (previously presented). The method of Claim 10, wherein the skin condition is vitiligo.

14 (canceled).